

Father feels fear each time police shoot black man

My son is 22 and he has been black since the day he was born. He doesn't live with me now, so I do not always know of his comings and goings.

Whenever I wake up in the morning to a report that the police have been involved in another shooting, I listen intently for a name or grab the newspaper. Admittedly, it is very selfish of me to breathe a sign of relief on learning that it is not my son who has been shot.

I daresay that there are other black families in Toronto who share this trepidation.

No matter what controls are put in place, and no matter what members of the black community say, there just doesn't seem to be any change in the attitude and behavior of the Metro Toronto police force.

Crimes are committed by everyone, not just black people. We appreciate the fact that the police have to apprehend suspects — but the key word here is "suspects." Why have so many suspects been shot, some to death? And why are so many of the shot suspects black?

That is a question that lately seems to be pondered only by the black community. No one else seems to care. One won-

ders whether the same apathy would exist in the wider community if the situation were reversed.

Since the shooting death of Buddy Evans in the late '70s, there has been a steady stream of shootings of black suspects. If members of the black community speak up about this state of affairs, they are vilified.

Our government carries on as if there is no cause for concern. What is someone to think when one of the first acts of the current solicitor-general was to grant the police their wish for more powerful bullets?

During the previous New Democratic Party government, attempts were made to address the shootings, such as the requirement for officers to file reports whenever they drew their guns. This, along with other curbs, resulted in police demonstrations at Queen's Park, blue ribbon campaigns and defiant behavior from a police chief.

I urge the government, on behalf of the black citizens and taxpayers of this province, to do something. Please, do something to stop the killing of young black men.

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